

## BERLIN

## Other Cheek Turned

On July 12 an American officer, in an official car on official business in East Berlin, was slapped in the face by one of a pair of Vopos (East German "people's police") who had stopped him and told him to get back inside the American sector. In accordance with standing orders the officer did not strike back or otherwise defend himself, and did as he was told. This incident was reported several days later in the U.S. press, and then dropped. The Berlin

# Abroad

press has given it more extended treatment and comment. Investigation showed that the assault had been in no way provoked, that the vehicle was not in a restricted area and that there had been no traffic violation. *Der Kurier*, like other Berlin papers, made clear by discreet comment its astonishment at the American supineness: "The Berliners will not find the conduct of the Americans exactly strong. Western forbearance in Berlin is already sometimes unpardonably exaggerated. The public—including the American public—might be interested to know just what orders the American military has in the event of Vopo infringements." Many Berliners connect this incident with what seems to be a campaign of petty provocations by the Vopos against Americans, and in turn with a seemingly deliberate harassment by innumerable jet flights so conducted as to create a nearly continuous din.

## NEW DELHI

## Welcome for Dollars

Western businessmen and diplomats in India hope that Lal Bahadur Shastri will fully regain his health. They are encouraged by most of the signs of policy direction from these first post-Nehru months. For example, the Shastri government has indicated a more receptive and flexible attitude toward private foreign investment than obtained under Nehru. American investment, especially, is being actively gone after, and is increasing at a higher rate than British investment. A good many U.S. corporations would like to expand in India, both for the possibilities they see in that country and to use plants located there for operations elsewhere in southern Asia. The Indian leaders know that they are failing to meet the industrial goals of their economic plans, and that Indian private capital is not meeting investment needs. Some of the conditions that U.S. businessmen would like to get raise almost insurmountable political obstacles in a population subjectively committed against "foreign control" and itself suffering a lowering of the standard of living; but, if the present trend continues under Shastri or a similarly minded successor, it seems likely that attractive changes will be made.

## PEKING

## School of Brinkmanship

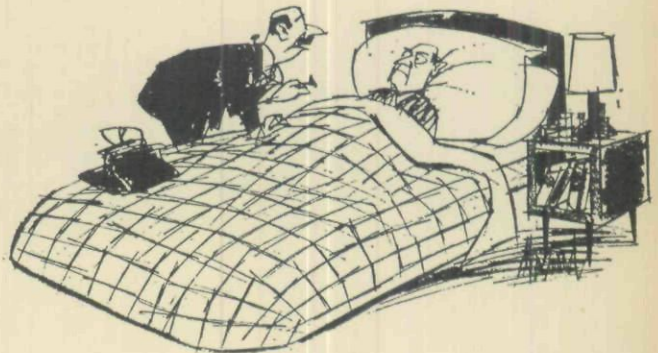
In a recent issue of the international Communist magazine, *Problems of Peace and Socialism*, Eduardo Mora Valverde,

leader of the Costa Rican Communists, writes that he was one of a group of South American Communists who visited China in 1959. Mao Tse-tung met with them in Peking, and declared during the course of discussion: "We learned a great deal from Foster Dulles. His policy of brinkmanship was directed against us, but we also have learned to conduct a policy of brinkmanship. None of you ought to fear international tension. Personally, I am very fond of international tension. There is a Chinese proverb that says: 'Some people are bold enough to tickle the moustache of a tiger.' So I feel you should have no fear of tension. The international status of China is illegal; the Western nations define China as an illegal state. So we cannot act in accordance with laws imposing restraints and limits. We act as we please. That's why we are in no hurry to enter the UN. We are not going to drown ourselves in that sewer."

## PITCAIRN ISLAND

## Journey's End

The development of Tahiti as an active tourist attraction apparently dooms this lonely and romantic spot where the mutineers from the *Bounty* found their refuge. For generations the Pitcairn islanders—the descendants of the mutineers—have had as their sole source of income the sale of carved souvenirs and trinkets to the passengers of the big liners that have in the past made Pitcairn a regular point of brief call. Now the ships have deserted Pitcairn for Tahiti. Some sales by mail—chiefly to the United States—are being attempted, but these cannot bring the



Punch

Ben Roth Agency

"Let me put it this way. If this were America you couldn't afford to be as ill as you are."

income needed for fuel and supplementary food, not to speak of needs beyond barest subsistence. Many islanders have already migrated to New Zealand. Eighty-three were left at the beginning of this year, only fifteen of them males of working age. It seems probable that the island will have to be altogether abandoned.

## FRANKFURT

## Medicare Without Politics

The giant Dutch enterprise, Philips, has made an agreement with the principal German electrical company, Siemens, to establish a subsidiary, "Hospitalia." This will conduct research, planning, selling and financing of complete hospitals and all types of medical equipment throughout the world except for Europe.

Copyright of National Review Bulletin is the property of National Review Inc. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.